

### OFFICE OF THE STATE REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

### Policy Number 2011-08

Policy Title: When Birth and Death Records Become Public Records

**Issued Date:** September 1, 2011

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### **Purpose**

To establish a uniform time frame for when birth and death records become public records.

# **Authority**

Colorado Revised Statute section § 25-2-103 (3)(a) states, "the State Registrar shall direct and supervise the operation of the vital statistics system..."

## **Background**

When significant time has passed since a vital event took place, it is customary for those records to pass from being confidential to being public records. Colorado law is silent on the issue of when birth and death records become public records. The increasing emphasis on protecting vital records from inappropriate use lends support to extending the confidentiality protection for a significant time frame.

### Policy

Birth records may become public records when 100 years have elapsed after the date of birth. <u>EXCEPTION</u>: The birth record of any individual who is known to be currently alive will remain confidential even if they are 100 years of age or greater.

Death records may become public records when 75 years have elapsed after the date of death.